

Message Text

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-----121720Z 065487 /42
P 120013Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

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STADIS//////////
EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DRAPER, NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

1. THIS WEEK, SOLARZ AND HIAS REPRESENTATIVES INTERESTED IN SITUATION OF SYRIAN JEWRY HAD MEETING WITH INS OFFICIALS. SOLARZ REPORTEDLY BROACHED CONCEPT OF LIMITED PAROLE PROCEDURE ALONG LINES OF DRAFT NEA MEMORANDUM YOU SAW HERE DURING CONSULTATIONS. INS REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT, RATHER THAN GOING THAT ROUTE, PROCESSING FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY IN FRANKFURT (OR PARIS) COULD BE DONE IN ONLY EIGHT RPT EIGHT DAYS. ROME WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING, SINCE THERE WERE LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIET JEWS THERE WHO HAD TO WAIT FOR LONGER PERIODS. EXPEDITED CONFIDENTIAL

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PROCESSING WOULD ASSUME NECESSARY MEDICAL AND SECURITY CHECKS HAD ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT IN DAMASCUS. SOLARZ AND HIAS FELT PROCESSING IN FRANKFURT WAS A WORKABLE ARRANGEMENT, OFFERING ADDED ADVANTAGE OF BEING RELATIVELY MORE DISTANT FROM ISRAEL.

2. AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN DEVELOPING THESE POSSIBLE ARRANGE-

MENTS, NEED YOUR ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH YOU SHOULD SLUG FOR NEA, SCA AND SCA/VO DISTRIBUTION ONLY IN STADIS CHANNEL.

--IS THERE A WORKABLE, PRACTICAL METHOD OF CARRYING OUT MEDICAL EXAMS AND SECURITY CHECKS AND OF PREPARING AT DAMASCUS OTHER DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR ISSUANCE AT FRANKFURT OF IV OR CONDITIONAL ENTRY WITHOUT AROUSING SYRIAN SUSPICIONS TO A COUNTERPRODUCTIVE DEGREE?

--WE PRESUME IN THIS CONNECTION THAT CONSULAR SECTION'S LOCAL EMPLOYEES WILL BE AWARE OF ANY PRE-PROCESSING OF EITHER IV OR CONDITIONAL ENTRY ELIGIBLES IN DAMASCUS.

--WE ARE PRESUMING THAT SYRIAN AUTHORITIES WILL CHECK PORTS OF SYRIAN JEWISH TRAVELERS AT AIRPORT AND WOULD OBJECT TO ANY EVIDENCE IN FORM OF U.S. VISAS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS ATTACHED TO PASSPORT INDICATING TRAVELER WAS INTENDING TO EMIGRATE. SHOULD WE ASSUME, AS WE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON, THAT SAFEST COURSE -- IF IT WOULD BE WORKED OUT HERE -- WOULD BE TO PLACE THE EQUIVALENT OF A VISITORS VISA IN THE PASSPORT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD BE CANCELLED WHEN THE IV OR CONDITIONAL ENTRY VISA IS ISSUED.

--ARE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES LIKELY TO CHECK SYRIAN JEWISH TRAVELERS TO THE U.S. TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WOULD STOP OVER IN THIRD COUNTRY AND THAT THEY HAVE PURCHASED ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL TICKETS IN ADVANCE?

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--IT APPEARS TO US THAT SYRIAN JEWISH TRAVELERS COULD LOGICALLY PURCHASE PAN AM TICKETS TAKING THEM THROUGH GERMANY ENROUTE TO U.S. WE PRESUME THAT IT WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS AND PERHAPS AROUSE SYRIAN SUSPICIONS IF TRAVELERS SOUGHT GERMAN VISAS IN DAMASCUS, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS. WOULD IT BE PREFERABLE FOR US TO SEEK SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE FRG SO AS TO PERMIT STOPOVER BY SYRIAN JEWS WITHOUT FRG VISAS IN FRANKFURT FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROCESSING?

--SHOULD SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR TRANSMISSION FROM INS TO EMBASSY OF APPROVED PREFERENCE PETITIONS FOR SYRIAN JEWS? CHRISTOPHER

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